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TO: USPTO

P.006/009

Serial Nr.: 10/600,126
Art Unit: 2872

03162-URS

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) as being anticipated by Sloot, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tasaki et al., Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wehr in view of Arnott, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wehr in view of Arnott as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Michler.

The gist of the instant invention is to provide a light reflector that allows the incident light to be reflected and directed toward a given direction for protecting a person wearing the light reflector in a dark environment. Accordingly, the reflector comprises a base plate which has a front surface receiving and reflecting incident light and a back surface formed with at least one light reflecting cone for reflecting the incident light.

Sloot discloses a method and apparatus for making retro-reflective articles wherein continuous or large sheets of retro-reflective material can be made without visually disturbing seam lines. As can be seen from Sloot's specification, the subject matter of Sloot's art is to make the disturbing seam lines invisible when a large sheet of retro-reflective material is made. Although Sloot shows a reflective base plate upon which reflective cones having flat angled faces are formed, it can be understood from Sloot's specification and FIGs. 1s and 1d that the reflective cones are formed on the front (upper) surface where the incident light is received. In contrast, the reflector of the

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instant invention has a base plate with a back surface on which at least one light reflecting cone is formed.

Wehr shows a light reflector including a reflective base plate (21, 27) on which reflective elements (23, 28) are formed. As can be seen from Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 of Wehr's specification, the reflective elements (23, 28) are sandwiched between a back base plate 27 and a front base plate 25. The reflective elements are not formed on a back surface of a base plate. The light reflector has a completely different structure from the instant invention.

Arnott et al. teach a pavement maker including a housing having a base for engagement with the surface of a roadway and a reflective wall for reflecting light from vehicles on the roadway when the fore and aft axis of the housing is disposed in parallel relationship with the direction of travel of vehicles on the roadway. Nowhere has the art of Arnott et al. mentioned or suggested forming reflecting cones on the back surface of a base plate of a reflector.

Michler et al. disclose a safety stick for joggers and other pedestrians including a shaft with high reflectivity. One or more coats of a reflective color paint are disposed on the immediate exterior of a shaft and a coat of clear lacquer having reflective glass beads therein surrounds the paint layer. There is no teaching in the reflector of the instant invention that comprises a base plate with a back surface on which at least one light reflecting cone is formed.

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Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the limitation that the reflector comprises a light reflective base plate having a front surface for receiving and reflecting incident light and a back surface on which at least one light reflecting cone is formed. None of the cited prior arts has taught, suggested or anticipated such a limitation. Claim 1 should have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 §103(a) and be allowable. By virtue of dependency, claims 2-8 should also be allowable.

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the instant invention differs from the cited prior arts. The physical difference results in different effects and is not obvious. Claims 1-8 are now in full condition for allowance. Drawing FIG. 2 is amended to add reference characters --A--, --B-- and --C-- that are described in the specification. The annotated sheet of drawing FIG. 2 showing marked-up changes is faxed for approval. Replacement sheets of the drawings will be submitted by post office mail after the application is allowed. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

FIG. 2 is amended to add reference characters --A--, --B-- and --C-- as described in paragraph [0021] of the specification.